UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/24405
10 August 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 7 AUGUST 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In response to the statement the President of the Security Council issued on 4 August 1992, and of the request for further information regarding concentration camps and ethnic cleansing, I submit the following information for review.

I have not forwarded this document to the Secretariat for their review since I would consider it likely that they would have received it through channels. None the less, I would request that the Secretariat verify the authenticity of this document.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating the attached information as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

Annex

Sector North
8 July 1992

MEMORANDUM

RESTRICTED

Subject: Arriving refugees from Bosanski Novi (BH)

On 7 July 1992 a group of 18 persons arrived in Sector North from Bosanski Novi (BH) asking for protection and assistance to cross the CFL towards Zagreb or other foreign countries. The Civil Affairs Officer interviewed the group and arranged for the crossing on 8 July 1992.

The following information is based solely on the statements of these persons who have asked for anonymity for security reasons. In Bosanski Novi (BH) the Muslim ethnic group (28 per cent) continues to suffer persecution, deportation and intimidation from Serbian armed groups. The beginning of this crisis is traced back to the end of April 1992.

The persons interviewed reported that all Muslims living in the town and in the neighbouring villages are ready to leave the area towards Croatia or other destinations in Europe. Previously we reported that the stadium of Bosanski Novi is one of the places where hundreds of persons have been held for screening, following which they are expelled from the area towards unknown destinations.

Reportedly all Muslims are forced to sign papers asking them to "voluntarily leave" under the following conditions:

- Leave behind all personal property (including cars, personal effects, etc.);

- Swear that they were permanently leaving the area and that they will never go back to their houses.

Following compliance with these conditions, they are issued a declaration from the local TDF Commander and the Militja (or the Mayor) allowing them to leave their opstina of residence. They are generally forced to leave in the direction of Dvor.

It is reported that the local authorities in Dvor do not seem surprised at the arrival of the forcefully removed persons. They even show a cooperative effort to facilitate their way towards Croatian controlled territories.

A calculated strategy to "cleanse" the area of Muslims appears to have intensified beginning in May 1992. House burnings, deportations, summary executions, shooting in the houses, etc., are part of the present situation in the towns and villages along the north side of the BH border (B sanski Novi, Bosanska Kostanjica and Bosanska Dubica). Reportedly, the Militja does not seem to intervene. Some Mayors and other Serbs working in the opstinas have also been reported as trying to help the Muslims to leave their houses safely. In Bosanski Novi the Military Police is reported to have its HQ in Hotel Una. There are reports of brutal torture in this hotel.

The persons interviewed believe that the political leaders know what is happening. Some of them attest to allegations that some high-level politicians in the SDS party are known to have given orders for actions against Muslims. Some of the refugees tell of a retaliatory policy of "one Serbian killed in the front line, one Muslim man will be killed". All the men interviewed had been held for some days in the stadium of Bosanski Novi before being expelled. They report that every day some 30 new detainees arrive in the stadium. When the stadium is full the guards take some of them away to unknown destinations. Some witnesses report that in the first 15 days of May some 200 persons taken out of the stadium were shot dead nearby.

Based on these interviews, the persons estimated that some 5,000 persons may try to cross the bridge between Bosanski Novi and Dvor in the coming days.

To: DCA/DDCA, UNPROFOR, BELGRADE

cc: UNHCR, ZAGREB, ATT.: OSE
ICRC
DANBAT, ATT.: MAJOR JENSEN
CHIEF, CIVPOL/DVOR/KOSTANJICA
UNHCR PROTECTION/FO, TOPUSKO
CIVIL AFFAIRS LIAISON OFFICE, ZABREB